

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 078806

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS STATE 078806

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: TBIO, EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: WHALING - US- JAPAN AGREEMENT ON OBSERVER SCHEME

1. DEPARTMENT HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DISCUSSED WITH JAPANESE EMBASSY DESIRABILITY OF RENEWING FOR 1973 AGREEMENT OF LAST YEAR BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS ON OBSERVATION OF WHALING FROM LAND STATIONS. THIS AGREEMENT EXPIRED FEBRUARY 28. APPARENTLY GOJ PREPARED TO RENEW AGREEMENT ON BASIS SIMILAR TO 1972 AND ON APRIL 4 PROMISED US DRAFT TEXT PROMPTLY.

2. UNFORTUNATELY IT APPEARS WE COMPLICATED MATTER IN EARLY STAGES BY ESPOUSING TWO SUGGESTIONS MADE BY US OBSERVERS BASED ON 1972 EXPERIENCE: (A) THAT OBSERVERS BE GIVEN GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN TERMS OF STATIONS OR GROUPS OF STATIONS AT WHICH THEY MAY OBSERVE SO AS TO ENSURE MORE EFFICIENT USE OF THEIR TIME, (B) THAT OBSERVERS BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY DURING SLACK PERIODS TO ASSIST RESEARCH EFFORTS BY COLLECTING RESEARCH SPECIMENS FROM WHALES.

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PAGE 02 STATE 078806

3. GOJ APPEARS TO FIND GREAT DIFFICULTY WITH BOTH SUGGESTIONS. WE HAVE DURING MOST RECENT TWO CONVERSATIONS EMPHASIZED THAT THEY ARE SUGGESTIONS ONLY, THAT IF GOJ SEES PROBLEMS WE ARE PREPARED TO WITHDRAW THEM AND THAT MOST URGENT CONSIDERATION IS GETTING ON WITH AGREEMENT IN VIEW APPROACH OF WHALING SEASON. REQUEST EMBASSY SEEK TO REEMPHASIZE URGENCY AND REITERATE THAT WE PREPARED TO DROP SUGGESTIONS MADE AND ACCEPT ARRANGEMENTS AS IN 1972. ROGERS

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